



## Cobb County Comprehensive Transportation Plan City of Marietta Public Meeting #1

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### City of Marietta

**Meeting Date:** April 10, 2006  
**Meeting Time:** 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Marietta City Hall  
205 Lawrence Street  
Marietta, GA  
**Attendance:** ≈21citizens

### **Agenda**

Opening, Meeting Purpose and Introductions

Study Scope, Process and Schedule

Citizen Participation Program

Citizens Participate

Closing

### **Meeting Summary**

Participants were asked to sign in upon arrival and provided with project materials including a fact sheet, public meeting schedule, comment sheet, project business card and a meeting agenda. Area maps were on display for participants to review. Brian Binzer, City of Marietta, called the meeting to order, recognized elected officials, welcomed the participants, and gave a brief overview of the project. The meeting was turned over to project consultant Steve Cote, DWA, who introduced the project team and made a power point presentation on the study scope, process and schedule. Morris Dillard discussed the citizen participation program. The Power Point Presentation is part of the record copy of these notes and is posted on the Project website at: [www.cobbdot.org/ctp](http://www.cobbdot.org/ctp).

Citizens were asked to provide feedback on the following topics:

- How did you find out about this meeting?
- Describe your City and Cobb County, as you would like them to be 25 years from now. Include a description of your dream transportation system.
- What are the biggest obstacles to your ability to move about your City and Cobb County?
- What techniques would you recommend to increase citizen participation in this study?
- Are there any comments or questions about the meeting or the process for public outreach?

The responses are recorded below.

Participants were encouraged to spread the word about the study within their community, City, and the County. They were also invited to visit the project website located on the City and County websites, for updates to the study. The meeting was adjourned.



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### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

#### **How did you find out about this meeting?**

Participants heard about the meeting from a variety of sources including the Marietta Daily Journal, Cobb Line, road signs and email.

#### **Describe your City and Cobb County, as you would like them to be 25 years from now. Include a description of your dream transportation system.**

- Non-polluting vehicles
- Safe pedestrians
- Clean sidewalks
- Green space
- Fewer cars
- Commuter rail
- Bike paths
- Better access for the disabled
- Housing for everyone
- Mixed use (live, work, play community)
- Expand HOV lanes
- Employment centers closer to residences to reduce trip distances
- Telecommuting
- Diversity honored in decision-making
- More golf courses
- More passive parks
- Fewer people
- Passenger rail (simplify routes)
- Paratransit
- Services for elderly (transportation)
- No smog/quiet environment (less traffic noise)
- Trolleys to transport people from suburbs
- Automated people movers (APM)
- Separate and safer people transportation system
- Clean environment
- More efficient energy consumption – transportation system
- Wireless environment

#### **What are the biggest obstacles to your ability to move about your City and Cobb County?**

- Transit limitations
- Inadequate transportation system
- Poor street and connectivity design
- Congestion
- Lack of accessibility to transit
- Poor traffic light synchronization
- Jay walkers
- Limited routes for CCT and poor accessibility, poor location of stops, and poor access for the disabled
- Sidewalks are a problem



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- Johnson Ferry/Providence/Old Canton intersection
- Lack of bike paths
- Impatience of other drivers
- Cost of energy/fuel

### **What techniques would you recommend to increase citizen participation in this study?**

- Advertisements on CCT
- Homeowner Association and PTA Councils
- Offer free incentives
- Add newsletter to utility bills
- Cobb Cable TV and Cobb 23
- Public radio and public TV
- Movie theaters
- North Georgia Fair booth
- Community events – concerts, etc.
- Reach out to more apathetic

### **Are there any comments or questions about the meeting or the process for public outreach?**

**Comment:** Please explain acronyms until citizens become more familiar with the meaning; for example SCC and PMT.

**Response:** Yes we will do that.

**Question:** Where do the Stakeholder Coordinating Committee (SCC), the Stakeholder Interviewees (SI) and the Project Management Team (PMT) come from?

**Answer:** The SCC members are 40- 50 appointees of the County Chairman and Commissioners and citizen appointees of the Mayors and Council Members of the six municipalities. The role of the SCC is to work with the Consultant Team throughout the study to assist in the plan implementation and to serve as a sounding board for the findings and recommendations of the Study. They also assist in keeping the appointing authorities and their key constituents in the study involved in and informed about the study. The Stakeholder Interviewees represent special populations and will be utilized to gain an in-depth understanding of the major issues facing their constituents. They will be asked to provide information about the study on a regular basis through their communication methods. The Project Management Team (PMT) consist of County and municipal staff representatives as well as staff representatives from other agencies. The PMT will provide subject matter expertise in technical matters and provide key inputs in the Plan.

**Question:** What is a CID?

**Answer:** Community Improvement District.

**Question:** Do any of you live in Cobb County?

**Answer:** Some members of our team do live in Cobb County.

**Question:** Is the DOT representative here on the Project Team?

**Answer:** No, Joe Palladi and Roxanne Ene from Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) are on the Project Management Team.

**Question:** What is the difference between a Stakeholder and a TCPP?



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**Answer:** The TCPP, Transportation Community Participation Program, is the official name for the outreach effort.

**Question:** Who are stakeholders?

**Answer:** Stakeholders are citizens who have a special interest or “stake” in transportation or transportation-related issues.

**Question:** Will the transportation program affect any residential areas?

**Answer:** Absolutely, we are sensitive to neighborhoods and how they will be impacted by recommendations that are made and that is why we reach out to neighborhoods to involve them in the process. We reach out to the disadvantaged as well as the affluent neighborhoods.

**Question:** Can we get a list of Stakeholder Coordinating Committee members and the interest they represent?

**Answer:** Please provide your contact information to the Project Manager, Laraine Vance, and that list will be shared with you.

**Question:** You mentioned an interview process; how can I be interviewed; I have a lot to say?

**Answer:** Provide your contact information to us today for your concerns to be addressed.

**Comment:** Hugh Bishop introduced himself as a SCC Member, and as a representative of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward. He offered his phone number and invited citizens to call on him with questions or comments.

**Question:** I represent a special population, how can my folks be included so that we can be represented in this process.

**Answer:** There are two types of interviews that will take place during this process. One is a random telephone survey and the other is one-on-one interviews. The list is being finalized for those who will be interviewed on a one-on-one basis and one of the criteria is that they represent constituencies that reflect the diversity of the community.

**Question:** If you limit your random survey to telephone, you will exclude those who do not have telephones. How will make sure the sample is representative of the community?

**Answer:** Questions will be asked during the survey to ensure that a cross-section of the community is represented. The random sample will generate a sampling of telephone numbers so that everybody has an equal chance of being selected in that 1,000. When you select 1,000, the margin of error is 3% so you can be sure that the response is representative. The results will be valid. We will stratify (breakdown) the information by city and the County, and by income, ethnicity, sex, and other demographics.

**Presenter's Comment:** The outcome of this study will be a multi-modal plan; not just bike paths, roads and so on; it is intended to represent the needs of the entire community.

**Question:** Are stakeholders from surrounding counties included in this study? Their planning affects Cobb County.

**Answer:** There is a subgroup created as part of this study (Cobb-Paulding Working Group) with that will work together to address the issues you raise.

**Question:** How did this study come about?

**Answer:** All counties in the metropolitan Atlanta are required to have Comprehensive Transportation Plans in order to receive funding. The growth in this area is driving the need to do



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planning. With the county population expected to exceed three quarters of a million people in 25 years planning must start now. The County oftentimes plans without coordination with the local jurisdictions; however, Cobb County is progressive in its approach to planning. This is a joint study with the cities.

**Question:** How will this be tied to the Comprehensive Plan?

**Answer:** The Comprehensive Plan is ongoing and what we learn in the CTP will be supportive and integrated with the Comprehensive Plan. Land use and transportation are two-sides of the same coin; the two will closely coordinated throughout the process.